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Message Text

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64
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DPW-01 NIC-01 /061 W
---------- 116339
O 110124Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3457
INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE
COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2644

FOLLOWING NHA TRANG TEL SENT MAR 10 ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON;
INFO USDAO SGN BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

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DAO FOR AOSO-IX/IS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION ALONG LOCS IN NORTHERN MR-2

REF: NHA TRANG 0142; NHA TRANG 0143

1. ACCORDING TO MR-2 NHA TRANG HQS, FIGHTING OVER THE WEEKEND OF MAR 8-9 IN REGION 2 TOOK 535 COMMUNIST LIVES AS AGAINST REPORTED GVN LOSSES OF 30 KIA AND 28 MIA. INFORMATION ON THE FIGHTING ALONG LOCS IN BINH DINH, PLEIKU, AND KHANH HOA FOLLOWS (COMMUNIST ATTACKS AGAINST PHU BON, DARLAC, AND QUANG DUC HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY-SEE REFTELS).

2. IN BINH DINH BY FAR THE MOST INTENSE FIGHTING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE COMMUNIST UPSURSE ON MAR 4 OCCURRED OVER THE WEEKEND. MOST OF THIS ACTION WAS CONCENTRATED NEAR THE AN KHE
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I SS TO THE NORTHWEST OF BINH KHE DISTRICT TOWN. THERE, FIGHTING

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BETWEEN THE ENTRENCHED COMMUNIST FORCES (NOTABLY, THE BULK OF THE 3RD NVA DIV) AND THE GVN FORCES (WHICH NOW INCLUDE THE 47TH ARVN REGT, THE 42ND ARVN REGT, ELEMENTS OF THE 41ST ARVN REGT BROUGHT DOWN FROM HOAI NHON, AND VARIOUS TERRITORIAL AND SUPPORT UNITS) REPORTEDLY COST THE COMMUNISTS 226 KILLED BY GROUND FIGHTING, 165 KILLED BY AIR, AND 39 WEAPONS LOST, AS AGAINST GVN LOSSES OF 1 KIA, 37 WIA, AND 1 MIA. SCATTERED FIGHTING PERSISTED IN OTHER AREAS OF BINH DINH, ESPECIALLY TAM QUAN AND PHU MY DISTRICTS.

3. THE AREA BETWEEN FSBS 93 (BR 039450) AND 94 (BR 135539) REMAINED THE FOCAL POINT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PLEIKU--TO BE SURE, HOWEPER, THE FIGHTING THERE WAS MUCH LESS INTENSE THAN THE FIGHTING AT AN KHE PASS IN BINH DINH. THE LARGEST ENGAGE-MENT OCCURRED BETWEEN 091120 HRS AND 091955 HRS, 2.5 KM EAST OF FSB 93, WHERE 2 COS. OF THE 44TH RANGER BN CLASHED WITH A COMMUNIST FORCE SUSTAINING 1 KIA AND 4 MIA AS AGAINST COMMUNIST LOSSES OF 52 KIA, 7 SA'S, 80 ARTILLERY ROUNDS, AND SOME AK AMMO. SIGNIFICANTLY, ON MAR 9 RANGERS BASED NEAR FSB 94 RECIEVED 11 RANGERS OF THE 43RD RANGER BN AND 85 SOLDIERS OF THE 209TH AND 279TH RF BNS (THESE SOLDIERS EVIDENTLY HAD BEEN MIA). QL-14 IN SOUTHERN PLEIKU (AT AQ 8584 AND QA 9270) REMAINS CUT.

4. HEAVY FIGHTING PERSISTED IN NORTHWESTERN KHANH HOA OVER THE WEEKEND. QL-21 REMAINED CUT.

5. LATE NEWS: (1) AT 101150 HRS AN ESTIMATED COMMUNIST BN OVERRAN BUON RING 30 KM SW OF CHEO REO, WHERE THE SUBSECTOR FORCES FROM THUAN MAN HAD REDEPLOYED (EARLIER WE REPORTED THAT THE SUBSECTOR FORCES HAD WITHDRAWN TO BUON HOI--IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THEY IN FACT DID SO, AND, IF SO, WHEN THEY MOVED TO BUON RING); NO FURTHER INFORMATION IS NOW AVAIABLE. REPORTEDLY CHEO REO ITSELF HAS TAKEN 20 ROUNDS OF INCOMING ORDNANCE TODAY (MAR 10). (2) AT 101440 HRS, THE COMMUNIST GUNNERS LAUNCHED 5 ROUNDS OF UNSPECIFIED ORDNANCE INTO CU HANH (PLEIKU) AIRFIELD. (3) AT 100955 HRS, RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH FSB DAK SON IN QUANG DUC. AT 101000 HRS, THE COMMUNISTS FROM THE NORTH SHOT 20 82 MM MORTARS IN KIEN DUC SUBSECTOR HQS; AT 101220 HRS VC LOC FORCES LAUNCHED A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST KIEN DUC DISTRICT HQS, WHICH ATTACK IS CONTINUING. AT 101055 HRS THE 271ST RF BN AND THE SUBSECTOR COMMANDER OF DUC LAP EVACUATED TO 2 KM SOUTH OF DUC LAP.
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AT 101500 HRS, THE SECTOR COMMANDER OF QUANG DUC MADE RADIO CONTACT WITH THE SUBSECTOR COMMANDER AT 3 KM SSW OF DUC LAP; THE PROVINCE CHIEF, WHO IS ABOARD A HELICOPTER, IS GUIDING THE SUBSECTOR FORCES OUT OF THE AREA. (4) SINCE MID AFTERNOON OF THE 10TH, PLEIKU AIRBASE HAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED HEAVY INCOMING ORDNANCE AND SUSTAINED SOME DAMAGE.
SPEAR
UNQUOTE

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